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December 12, 2007

WEST VIRGINIA BULLETIN NO: WV300-8-7

SUBJECT: Revised 2008 EQIP Payment Schedules and Program Policy.

Purpose: To Distribute revised 2008 EQIP Payment Schedules and Program Policy.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2008

Revised 2008 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Payment Schedules are attached and available for developing cost estimates during the ranking process for EQIP applications. Copies of the payment schedules formatted for use in Toolkit will be sent via email to all field office employees. The revised payment schedules are loaded into ProTracts.

During area training sessions on the payment schedule, some errors were discovered in the current schedule and the need for additional scenarios for selected practices was discovered. The revised payment schedule corrects the payment amount for practice 329, Residue Management, changes the component name for 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting from "Continuous" to "Frost Seeding", corrected a misspelled word in a Prescribed Grazing component, corrected the payment for Roof Runoff Management, changed the payment for Access Road, corrected the payment for an Automated, 2-hole Watering Facility and corrected the payment for an Underground Outlet. Two additional components were added to Structure for Water Control at the request of the West Area.

The revised payment schedules are effective immediately and will be used in developing any contracts not presently uploaded into ProTracts. The contracts already in ProTracts do not have to be reloaded.

The following policy supersedes any directives previously issued and any information delivered in a staff meeting.

- The payment for CNMP development is only eligible if NRCS does not develop the CNMP and manure or litter is applied to the land. In cases where manure or litter is imported to the operating unit, payment will only be made for the base plan and the acres of cropland or grassland where manure is applied. The payment for the manure management component will not be made for operations where manure or litter is imported only.
- Payment for brush management is for acres treated, not brush acres. For example, in a twenty acre field with a 15% infestation of brush evenly distributed throughout the field - a chemical or mechanical treatment would cover all twenty acres. If on the other hand, the brush is concentrated to a particular area of the field, steep bank or draw, then only



that area would be contracted. It is the planner's judgment of the amount of this practice to include in the contract. Follow-up treatment is included in the initial payment so no second year treatment will be included in the contract as a separate contract item.

- The cost of seeding and mulching is included in the payment for practices which involve earthmoving.
- The payment for a pond is calculated on the sum of the volume of stripping, earth fill and core trench excavation as calculated by the pond design program. Payment is for design volume and not as built volume. Payment for seeding, mulching, fence and pipes are included in the cubic yard payment.
- The purpose of the fence will be stated in the narrative. If fence is for grazing management, then Prescribed Grazing must be included in the contract, if eligible, or included in the conservation plan. Temporary fence is not a cost sharable item in WV.
- EQIP rules prohibit cost sharing on irrigation practices unless the land where the practice will be installed has been irrigated two of the last five years. This is a user self certification, see WV forms webpage for form [WV-300-15](#).
- EQIP policy prohibits the reapplication of a management conservation practice on the same land where it was originally applied under EQIP. Therefore Prescribed Grazing will not be contracted on the same land where it was included in a prior EQIP contract unless the producer is moving to a more intensive grazing management program. Prescribed Grazing payments shall be limited to three years of the contract on the same acreage.
- Prescribed grazing is limited to 100 acres per contract.
- Nutrient management payments shall be limited to three years of the contract on the same acreage. Nutrient management may not be included in the contract, for the same acreage, if it has been included in a prior EQIP contract.
- Heavy Use area around a water facility is included in the payment for a typical installation. If an amount of gravel or concrete paving over 250 square feet is required, then additional heavy use area should be included as a separate contract item.
- Applicants for the woodland management improvement pilot in the Elk LWG are eligible if all of the following are met:
 - Land is in a stewardship plan or applicant is willing to develop a stewardship plan.
 - Woodland site index is 60 or greater.
 - Livestock are excluded from woodland.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact Herbert Andrick, ASTC-Programs at (304) 284-7560.

/s/ Stephen G. Carpenter, Acting for
KEVIN WICKEY
State Conservationist

Attachments: Revised 2008 EQIP payment schedule
2008 LRF EQIP payment schedule
Revised 2008 EQIP payment schedule – Elk LWG only
2008 LRF EQIP payment schedule – Elk LWG only

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